

Appl. No.: 10/088,731
Response dated June 30, 2005
Reply to Office action of March 31, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

Dicarboxylic acid monoesters are known nonionic surfactants which are available on an industrial scale. The substances which form component (b) are preferably esters of dicarboxylic acids containing $[[1]]$ 2 to 12 and more particularly 4 to 6 carbon atoms, especially esters of dicarboxylic acids selected from the group consisting of oxalic acid, malonic acid, succinic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, glutaric acid, adipic acid, sorbic acid, pimelic acid, azelaic acid, sebacic acid and dodecanedioic acid. The monoesters may be present in the acid form or as monosalts, for example as alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, ammonium, alkyl ammonium, alkanolammonium and/or glucammonium salts. The monoesters are also preferably derived from fatty alcohols containing 6 to 22 carbon atoms. Accordingly, typical examples are dicarboxylic acid monoesters based on caproic alcohol, caprylic alcohol, 2-ethylhexyl alcohol, capric alcohol, lauryl alcohol, isotridecyl alcohol, myristyl alcohol, cetyl alcohol, palmitoleyl alcohol, stearyl alcohol, isostearyl alcohol, oleyl alcohol, elaidyl alcohol, petroselinyl alcohol, linolyl alcohol, linolenyl alcohol, elaeostearyl alcohol, arachyl alcohol, gadoleyl alcohol, behenyl alcohol, erucyl alcohol and brassidyl alcohol and technical mixtures thereof.

Dicarboxylic acid monoesters based on technical coconut fatty alcohols are preferably used. However, oxoalcohols, such as Neodols (Shell), may also be used. In addition, preparations containing as component (b) esters of dicarboxylic acids with fatty alcohols of which the alk(en)yl group corresponds to that of the alk(en)yl oligoglycosides are particularly preferred. Monoesters and/or diesters of adipic acid with C₁₂₋₁₈ fatty alcohols have also proved to be particularly advantageous in terms of foaming behavior and compatibility. Finally, the preparations may contain the alkyl and/or alkenyl

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oligoglycosides and dicarboxylic acid monoesters in a ratio by weight of 1:99 to 99:1, preferably 5:95 to 95:5, more preferably 10:90 to 90:10, most preferably 25:75 to 75:25 and, in one most particularly preferred embodiment, 40:60 to 60:40. The preparations are generally present in the form of aqueous solutions or pastes which have a solids content (corresponding to the active substance content or to the nonaqueous component) of 5 to 50, preferably 10 to 35 and more particularly 15 to 25% by weight.